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lives to save the lives of their fellowmen. Such heroism is now of everyday occurrence.

In our age there is no more reason for permitting war between civilized nations than for relaxing the reign of law within nations, which compels men to submit their personal disputes to peaceful courts, and never dreams that by so doing they will be made less heroic.

A peace league of the foremost nations should put an end to the possibility of war among themselves and compel other nations to submit their disputes to peaceful tribunals. Since war decides not which is wrong, but only which is strong, it is difficult to understand how a truly heroic or conscientious man can ever favor appeal to it, unless, after proffering peaceful arbitration, his country is attacked.

Should ever our country have a dispute with another, the demand should come from an irresistible number of the most enlightened and heroic of our people that our government should "in its right hand carry gentle peace" and offer its adversary arbitration.

When war ceases, the sense of human brotherhood will be strengthened, and "heroism" will no longer mean to kill, but only to serve or save our fellows.

## A Japanese Invasion—Is it Probable?

BY REV. H. LOOMIS, AGENT OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY IN JAPAN.

There have been frequent and strong assertions to the effect that there is such a probability of war between the United States and Japan that to prepare as speedily as possible for any emergency is an urgent necessity. A war between Japan and the United States is almost certain never to occur; in fact, is so utterly impossible that it is not worthy of serious consideration. The reasons are these:

1. There is no such disposition on the part of the Japanese. Any statements to the contrary are made without a knowledge of, or in disregard of, the facts. Writing on this subject, the editor of the *Japan Mail* (who is an ex-officer of the British Army), says: "Before engaging in a war with America, Japan would have to divest herself of the strongest sentiment of friendship which she entertains towards any foreign country."

If the Japanese had any feeling of animosity and ambition to make war with the United States, the opportunity was given when emissaries from the Philippine Islands came to Japan and tried to get the Japanese to join with them in their resistance of the United States forces then endeavoring to conquer the Islands. But the Japanese said, "No!"

At the recent Semicentennial Missionary Conference in Tokyo a resolution was passed lamenting, "that there had issued from the sensational press such exaggerated and even false rumors concerning the real and secret purpose of Japan as to arouse a suspicion that even war was not unlikely; and also in connection with the Japanese immigration into the United States, many articles appeared in the sensational papers revealing profound ignorance of Japan and creating anti-Japanese sentiment. The conclusion is, that for the maintenance of amicable relations, trustworthy international news is indispensable. If false and exaggerated reports of the

customs and actions of other nations are fruitful of contempt, ill-will, and even war, and libel on an individual is a grave offense, how much graver is libel on a nation."

In a paper prepared and signed by practically the whole body of the American missionaries in Japan some three years ago is this statement: "We, the undersigned, wish to bear testimony to the sobriety, sense of international justice, and *freedom from aggressive designs* exhibited by the majority of the Japanese people, and to their faith in the traditional justice and equity of the United States, and our belief that the alleged 'belligerent attitude of the Japanese' does not represent the real sentiment of the people."

Those of us who have been residents in Japan for many years will agree that it is the usual testimony of the Japanese that they regard the Americans as their truest and best friends, and there is no thought or desire to put an end to such relations. On the contrary, there was on their part a feeling of deep regret that their spirit and conduct should be so misunderstood. For this reason they were glad to have the opportunity, by the coming of the American fleet, of showing their goodwill and high regard, which is universal and genuine.

The following is a copy of a note received from a Japanese teacher, living in the Hokkaido, on the coming of the American fleet to Yokohama; and it expresses exactly the general sentiment of the Japanese towards the people of the United States: "Accept my sincere congratulation for the safe arrival of the long-expected and respectable fleet of the United States at Yokohama. It is very heart-winning to read articles in papers, the fresh recollections on the knocking on the door of Japan by the elderly nation, who has proved ever brother, friend, instructor and spiritual benefactor of the nation of Japan. We are the people who long remember the good received, and soon forget evil incurred, if any. But it is worthy of gratitude that we have good only to recollect about the nation of the United States of America. May this opportunity serve to strengthen the tie of friendship anew, and into a yet stronger one."

2. The Japanese are not a people eager for bloodshed and conquest. Until the war with China, the last foreign war in which Japan was engaged was that of the invasion of Korea in 1276. No better proof could be given of their non-aggressive spirit than the fact that when General Saigo proposed, in the year 1877, to put an end to the troubles in Korea by a conquest of the country, the government refused to sanction such a course, and the result was a civil war. Thus many hundred lives were sacrificed and large sums of money were expended for the purpose of preventing a rupture of the peaceful relations with a friendly power.

The war between Japan and China, and also the one with Russia, was not brought about by Japan's seeking. Had either China or Russia been willing to accept reasonable terms of adjusting the questions which had arisen in the administration of affairs in Korea, the whole trouble would have been settled without resort to arms.

The premier of Japan, who is a general in the regular army, said to Rev. Dr. DeForest, "I am a soldier, but I hate war. I tried every possible way to come to a settlement with Russia through peaceful means; and, after six months of useless diplomatic correspondence, we

simply had to fight for our national existence." "And this," says one who is well able to judge, "is a true expression of the heart of Japan's generals."

3. Japan would be unable to conduct a war with the United States for financial reasons. This alone is sufficient to settle the whole matter without a doubt. Japan has a population of 50,370,000 (if we exclude Formosa, which is only a dependency, and of no value as a military asset). It has at the present date a national debt of \$1,125,000,000, which is \$21.50 per capita. The taxes amount to from twenty per cent. to thirty per cent. of the income, and the country is not only groaning under the heavy taxation, but demanding some form of relief. No other country in the world is carrying so heavy a burden in proportion to its financial strength. The *Kokumin Shimbun* (a Tokyo daily) says, "The heavy debts of Japan are more than the nation can endure."

Baron Shibusawa, who is one of the ablest financiers in Japan, says, "The present rate of taxation in Japan is indeed extremely high and more than the people at large can bear."

Owing to the general financial distress, the Diet has just refused to approve of the budget which was proposed by the Cabinet, and has made a reduction of \$5,000,000. Even this is unsatisfactory to the masses, and a further reduction in the land tax is demanded.

To assume the burden of another war, and especially where there is no possibility of pecuniary gain, would be positively and utterly ruinous. It has been asserted that a few months more of the Russian war would have resulted in national bankruptcy. The war with Russia cost Japan \$585,000,000 and 135,168 lives. The Japanese Ambassador to the United States (Viscount Aoki) said to Dr. DeForest, "War with America is impossible."

4. One thing in which Japan has been especially successful is the establishment and maintenance of a mercantile marine. It has been gradually developed until lines are now in operation between all the ports of the country, to Siberia, Korea, Formosa, China, India, Australia, Europe, Seattle, Tacoma, San Francisco and ports in South America, and the maintenance of these lines is of vital importance to the welfare of the country. A war with the United States would mean an end to much, if not the larger part, of this commerce.

At the close of the war with Russia the new Cabinet proposed a considerable enlargement of the navy, in order to be prepared for a possible renewal of the struggle, as it was openly declared by the Russian officers that the settlement had come too soon, and that they were unwilling to regard it as final. But the people in Japan protested so strongly that the Cabinet resigned, and the result was a change in the program and a reduction in the expense to be incurred.

The statesmen of Japan are men of too much sense to embark in any course that would involve the inevitable ruin of the country. They are practical men who have the welfare of the country at heart, and are not led away by mere pride or ambition. Nearly one-half of Japan's indebtedness is abroad. A declaration of war with the United States would result in loss of her credit abroad and put an end to all foreign loans.

5. Japan is largely dependent upon the United States for a market for her products. Her chief articles of export are tea and silk. The United States takes prac-

tically all her tea that goes abroad, and paid last year (1909) \$6,000,000 for this alone and \$35,000,000 for silk. Of all the articles which Japan exports to other countries, there is perhaps none on which the future prosperity of the nation is so dependent as that of raw silk and silk fabrics. They represent by far the highest money value. The exports to the United States constitute over seventy per cent. of the trade. Without such a market the industries of Japan would cease to be profitable and the country would become bankrupt. The total exports from the United States into Japan during the year 1909 aggregated \$27,021,000. In 1907 the aggregate was \$40,000,000.

6. When the fighting strength of the two nations is considered, it is evident to any ordinary observer that for Japan to engage in war with the United States would be nothing short of madness. The leaders in Japan know the conditions, and that they cannot be ignored.

Japan has eleven modern battleships. Her others are old, having been mostly captured in the war with China or Russia, and are now out of date. The new ships range from 10,000 tons to 19,500. She has also fifteen armored cruisers. America has twenty-three battleships, ranging from 11,000 to 16,000 tons, and fifteen armored cruisers, ranging from 8,200 to 14,600.

With the completion of vessels now in process of construction, the disparity on the part of the Japanese will be still greater. Japan expended for her navy in the year 1907 the sum of \$16,707,347. The United States expended during the same period \$87,866,828. For the building of new ships, Japan expended last year \$2,799,371. For the "increase of the navy," the United States expended \$29,588,344.

7. Japan has not the necessary food supplies to carry on a war with the United States. Owing to the fact that only about one-tenth of the area of Japan is available for cultivation, there is an annual average deficit of 4,296,418 piculs of rice, costing \$17,905,000, which is procured from China, Burmah and elsewhere. The bread supplied to the soldiers during the war with Russia was made from flour purchased on the Pacific Coast. The value of flour imported from the United States in 1906 was \$1,819,166. During the year 1909 Japan imported also 4,294,267 piculs of beans, valued at \$6,321,893, and kerosene oil to the value of \$5,828,649.

In case of war this importation would be interfered with, and possibly prevented, and if this should occur the result would be famine.

8. Then, too, should Japan become involved in war with the United States, both China and Russia would be only too glad to settle up old scores. The awakening in China means the development of a national spirit that will insist upon a readjustment of international affairs on a new basis. The boycott of Japanese goods in Southern China was evidence of a deep and quite general feeling of hostility to Japan, which has not been wholly allayed. The Russians also would no doubt avail themselves of the opportunity to reopen the struggle for the possession of Manchuria and supremacy in Korea. The Russian officers who were brought to Japan as prisoners, as well as General Kuropatkin in his report of the war, were all agreed that the treaty of peace at Portsmouth had been made too soon; and if they could have had opportunity to continue the fight the result would have been different.

At any rate, they were unwilling to regard the settlement as final. When the double line of railway is completed across Siberia, and the Russian navy is enlarged to the extent now proposed, conditions will be quite changed; and this must be taken into account by Japan.

The situation in Korea is yet far from being settled. To maintain supremacy there the Japanese need a military force and continued expenditure of money. At the present time a division and a half is stationed in Korea and another division in Manchuria.

Under such circumstances Japan cannot afford to run the risk of a war that would deprive her of what has been gained at so great a sacrifice of life and treasure.

9. The entire area of Japan is only 148,832 square miles, and less than that of the State of California. Of this total 30,371 square miles are included in the island Yezo (or the Hokkaido), which is mostly wilderness. The arable area of Japan is estimated at 25,000 square miles. Her total wealth is estimated at \$10,510,000,000. The wealth of the United States is estimated at about \$120,000,000,000. The average income of the people of Japan is but \$30 per capita. The average income of the United States is \$150 per capita.

To conduct an aggressive war against a nation with nearly double the population, with eleven times the financial strength, possessing a more powerful navy, and at a distance of from four to five thousand miles from the base, is a project that has never yet been attempted, and which no sane person would even consider. No hostile force could be organized and equipped without giving ample time for preparation to meet it, and with modern equipments even a small body of soldiers could repel any invading force. The simple matter of the difficulty of a coal supply for a fleet of battleships and transports would render an invasion utterly impossible. None of the war vessels would be able to carry sufficient coal for a round voyage, and a single hostile battleship could prevent new supplies being sent. The Hawaiian Islands, as well as the Philippines, would furnish a base for a hostile force in the rear, and the whole American fleet, including torpedo boats and submarines, would have to be first destroyed or captured.

10. The Japanese policy is one of peace and not war. On the 30th of November, 1908, the Japanese ambassador at Washington signed a declaration of the views of his government, in which he says: "It is the wish of his government to encourage the free and pacific development of the commerce on the Pacific Ocean." A similar declaration was signed by Secretary Root in behalf of the United States government. There has been no reason for any change in the attitude of the two nations towards each other, and it is incomprehensible to those who know the conditions that good people should be deluded with the idea that it is now a matter of vital importance to greatly increase and reorganize the army and multiply the battleships in order to prevent an invasion.

Speaking on this subject, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Komura, said: "The foreign policy of this empire should have for its objects the maintenance of peace and the development of the national resources. The friendship between Japan and the United States is of traditional standing, and it is absolutely essential to the common interests of both states, not only to maintain unimpaired those sentiments of amity, but to

extend and strengthen them by every possible means. "The rash utterances of individuals are not the expression of the representative men in Japan, and are unworthy of consideration."

The former American Ambassador at Tokyo, Hon. Luke Wright, said on his return to the United States: "The talk of war between this country and Japan isn't even respectable nonsense. Japan no more wants war with us than we want one with her, and the idea that there is an impending conflict is ridiculous." His successor makes the assertion that, "so far as our two countries are concerned, there is not now one serious question that remains unsettled."

To multiply battleships and soldiers in fear of an invasion from Japan is not simply absolute folly, but a wicked waste of treasure and lives that ought to be devoted to some more worthy object.

I have just been told by the head of one of the English banks in Yokohama that, according to the terms of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, the consent of England must first be obtained before Japan could engage in war with the United States, and for various and important reasons such consent is not to be thought of. Thus for other and very different reasons war becomes impossible.

## President Taft's Cure for War.

BY PROF. C. M. MEAD.

It is lamentable that, while our President shows a disposition to be in some respects more regardful of legal and constitutional restrictions than his predecessor, in the matter of armaments he is urging a continuance of the Roosevelt policy. His speech at a banquet of the Peace and Arbitration League in New York on March 22 not only avowed that he should do his utmost to secure the building of two battleships annually, but announced his belief in the doctrine that the most effectual influence for preventing war is the pecuniary expense which it involves, and the consequent danger of a government's being bankrupted or upset. And accordingly he wants the increase of our navy to go on until the completion of the Panama Canal, "and then we can stop and think whether we wish to go further!"

Truly a cheerful prospect! Any war, we are told, is liable to be so expensive as to bankrupt a nation. Therefore let us go on building battleships in preparation for war, even though such preparation itself runs us into bankruptcy. It has run us into debt; it has turned a surplus into a deficit; we are urged to keep on for at least five years in the same way, piling up a huge debt for our navy and for the Panama Canal; and then we can stop and think! Would it not be well to stop and think now? To think what a woful waste this battleship building is; to think how utterly needless this preparation for war is; to think how our example serves to stimulate the military spirit not only at home but in other countries; to think that going armed to the teeth is no way to prevent quarrels; to think that, after a century of practically no army or navy, during which no foreign power has made war on us, this present increase of armaments can mean to other nations nothing else than a threat.

This banquet in New York, at ten dollars a plate,